

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Under the heading "Detailed Description of the Invention," please amend the paragraph at page 6, line 19 through page 7, line 2 as follows:

A/ Focusing in more detail on FIGURE 1, the apparatus 10 has transport ports 16 and 17, which are coupled to optical fibers in a telecommunications network, and which carry high-speed telecommunications traffic. The transport ports 16 and 17 are sometimes alternatively referred to as line ports. In the disclosed embodiment, the ports 16 and 17 are configured to carry traffic conforming to the industry standard known as the synchronous optical network (SONET) protocol, and in particular either the Optical Carrier 12 (OC-12) or Optical Carrier 3 (OC-3) SONET protocols. However, it will be recognized that the transport ports 16 and 17 could alternatively be use some other existing or future communication protocol. While it is possible to use the ports 16 and 17 to couple the apparatus 10 to other equipment which is local, the ports 16 and 17 will typically be used to couple the apparatus 10 to other equipment which is at remote locations.

Under the heading "Detailed Description of the Invention," please amend the paragraph at page 31, lines 5-7 as follows:

- A/
- If ~~protected~~ unprotected OC-3 line interfaces are required, then two IFA6-x3E1 are required in slots #6X101 and #6X109.